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Abstracts of Ph.D. Theses

U. Arulanandu (2007), 'An Econometric Analysis of International and Domestic Trade of Spices', Department of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Madurai – 625 104.

Major Advisor: Dr (Mrs) T. Alagumani

This study has been conducted with the following objectives: (i) to analyse the growth and instability in export of spices, (ii) to find the direction of spices trade and project the export quantity of spices, (iii) to analyse the extent of integration between domestic and international spice markets, and (iv) to identify the constraints being faced by spices traders. Compound growth rates, Coppock's instability index, ARIMA model, Markov chain model, cointegration and conjoint analysis have been used to analyse the data. Compound growth rates, worked for pre- and post-liberalisation periods, have revealed that growth rates for export quantity of cardamom-small, chilli, turmeric, spice oil and oleoresins, coriander and cumin were high during post-liberalisation than pre-liberalisation period. The results of instability in export have indicated that the spice trade was more stable during post-liberalisation than pre-liberalisation period.

The autoregressive integrated moving average models, built for export quantity of selected spices for the period 1970-71 to 2005-06, have shown increasing trend for the next five years for most of the selected spices. The results of Markov chain analysis have indicated the direction of spices trade and have indicated the countries on which India could rely for export of different spices.

Nominal protection coefficient for all the selected spices has been found less than one, which indicates that these spices are competitive in the international market.

S.R. Vichare (2007), 'Dynamics of Rice-based Cropping Systems in North Konkan Zone, Maharashtra State', Department of Agricultural Economics, Dr Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli – 415 712, Maharashtra.

Major Advisor: Dr H. K. Patil

This study has been undertaken with the following objectives : (i) to estimate the trends in agro-climatic and socio-economic determinants of cropping systems, (ii) to identify and compare the economics of various cropping systems practised by the sample farmers, (iii) to study the resource-use efficiency in the existing cropping system, and (iv) to determine the optimum land use for maximization of profit and income of farmers under improved technologies, existing resource, and marketing infrastructure. The study is based on the data obtained from both primary and secondary sources pertaining to the agricultural year 2002-03. It has been found that area under non-agricultural use was increasing rapidly; this change was more than 50% during the period 1990-91 to 2000-01.

The current fallow and other fallow lands have declined by 38.7 per cent and 21.3 per cent in the year 1990-91 and 2000-01 over the year 1980-81. This change has been attributed to favourable dynamics in the agricultural sector. But, at the same time cultural waste land has increased by 44.6 per cent in the year 2000-01. This is an unfavourable dynamics occurring in the agricultural sector and area of major concern.

In the four major cropping systems practised in the North Konkan zone, the maximum net returns was from rice-vegetable cropping system. The study has shown that to minimize risks in *kharif* rice, farmers should follow the cropping system of two or more crops in a year. The Cobb-Douglas production function analysis in different cropping system has also been carried out.